

But while this nominee has been delayed, she will nonetheless be confirmed by this Chamber. The vast majority of Senators understand that certain nominees are out of bounds from typical partisan politics. So we are going to do our jobs and confirm this nominee. As long as Republican holds continue on a vast number of other important nominations, the Senate will keep voting as long as it takes to get them through the Chamber. If it means voting late, as we have done in recent weeks, then that is what we must do.

I will return later to join with my colleagues to speak further on increasingly reckless holds—holds that damage our security, both domestic and national—that we are seeing on the other side.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we are currently in the midst of the worst border crisis in our Nation's history.

It is no exaggeration to say that the situation at our southern border is out of control. In December, U.S. Customs and Border Protection apprehended more than 178,000 individuals attempting to cross our southern border illegally—178,000 in 1 month—which is more than double the number of individuals apprehended by the Border Patrol the previous December.

This is no isolated incident. Almost from the day the President took office, our Nation has been experiencing an unprecedented border surge. In fiscal year 2021, the Border Patrol encountered more than 1.7 million individuals attempting to cross our southern border—the highest number ever recorded.

The situation at our southern border is a security, enforcement, and humanitarian nightmare. Our Border Patrol officers have done heroic work this past year, but they are stretched incredibly thin and are having to spend too much time caring for migrants and not enough time patrolling the border. This heightens the chance that dangerous individuals—from terrorists to drug smugglers, to human traffickers—will slip across the border into the country unnoticed.

Drug trafficking across our southern border is a major problem and a problem that affects our entire country. There is a massive increase of fentanyl being smuggled across the border in States around the country, with total seizures up 134 percent and as high as 1,000 percent in South Texas. Alarmingly, fentanyl overdoses are now the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18 to 45.

I have talked with local law enforcement officials in South Dakota who report that they regularly seize drugs that they can trace back to cartels trafficking them across our southern border. In other words, it is not just border States that are affected by security problems at our borders. Every State in our Union is threatened by lax border security.

Addressing the situation at our southern border should be one of this administration's top priorities, but the President has been almost completely AWOL on this issue, as has his supposed border czar, the Vice President. He seems to be hoping that if he ignores this crisis long enough, it will go away. But it hasn't gone away. In fact, it shows no signs of stopping.

It is hard to overemphasize the depth of the President's dereliction of duty on this issue. After all, it is the President's job to deal with national security and border enforcement. Yet the President continues to do essentially nothing to address the situation at our southern border. He can't even be bothered to visit the border. In fact, there is reason to believe that the President has never, never visited the border—not as President, not as Vice President, and not even as a Senator—beyond driving by it once on the way to a campaign rally in 2008.

Of course, this situation isn't just a matter of the President being derelict in his enforcement duties. The President is partly, if not largely, responsible for the existence of this situation in the first place.

Immediately upon taking office, the President took steps that weakened our Nation's border security. On his very first day in office, the President rescinded the declaration of a national emergency at our southern border. He halted construction of the border wall, and he revoked a Trump administration order that called for the government to faithfully execute our immigration laws. That was all on his first day, and that wasn't all.

The President's Department of Homeland Security also issued guidelines that same day pausing deportations except under certain conditions. The effect of all this was to declare to the world that the U.S. borders were effectively open, and the administration hasn't made much of an effort to correct that impression. The President has significantly limited the ability of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection to enforce immigration laws.

Deportations dropped precipitously during fiscal year 2021, as did arrests in the interior of the country. And, of course, having a President who seems untroubled by the massive number of migrants attempting to cross our borders illegally hardly sends a discouraging message to those contemplating making the crossing themselves.

There is simply nothing good to say about President Biden's record on the border so far. His policies are not com-

passionate. There is nothing compassionate about policies that invite illegal immigration and encourage individuals to undertake the dangerous journey to our southern border.

He has betrayed the duty he owes to the American people who should be able to count on their President to care about security concerns, including border security.

We just marked the anniversary of the President's first year in the White House, a year marked by disaster at our southern border. The President has a chance to change that record, to leave behind something other than border chaos to mark his time in office. But until we see real action from this administration, I am not going to get my hopes up.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RUSSIA

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, as I speak here today, Russian President Vladimir Putin has amassed 130,000 to 150,000 soldiers on Ukraine's doorstep in a show of force that could be a dress rehearsal for an invasion of Ukraine. But Putin's inventory of tanks, infantry, and missiles is enabled by another dangerous weapon: Russia's export of dirty energy, oil and gas.

Our global addiction to fossil fuels, an addiction which Russia is only too happy to exploit, is kindling this potential conflict. Without a worldwide clean energy revolution, we will never be able to quit this cycle of fossil fuel corruption and conflict. We will never be able to experience true independence from foreign interference. And we will never be able to protect our friends and our allies or ourselves from wars spurred by dirty energy profits.

As long as Vladimir Putin can wield natural gas and oil as a threat against our country and our European allies and partners, we will always be on the defense. As long as Putin can wield gas prices and oil prices as a cudgel to remake borders, these crises will become a repeating drumbeat on the battlefield of history. As long as Putin can rely on global economic systems that are dominated by dirty fossil fuels instead of clean renewable energy, we will all remain vulnerable.

The most effective way to reduce the long-term security threat to Ukraine and to Europe and to sovereign nations everywhere is to stop the spigot that puts billions of Euros and dollars into the hands of Vladimir Putin and his oligarch cronies in return for dirty fuels.

In 2021, more than 36 percent of Russia's Federal budget revenues came

from oil and gas sales. This could fund annual Russian military activities more than twice over.

The United States itself participates in these dirty profits. Seven percent of our oil imports come from Russia. We send billions of dollars a year to Putin, to those oil giants in Russia. We do it ourselves.

Since 2015, Russia has used these oil and gas revenues to expand its currency reserves to \$631 billion, the fourth largest reserve in the world.

Why does this matter? Because the massive revenue chest dilutes the impact of nonmilitary options to respond to Russia's aggression.

President Joe Biden is right to seek a diplomatic off-ramp to the current crisis over Ukraine. This crisis has no military solution, but a long-term solution has to include a comprehensive strategy that ends the globe's deadly addiction to Russian fossil fuels. That strategy will only happen through an American-led clean energy revolution that frees the West from dependence on Putin's pipelines.

Many of my Republican colleagues think that the only way to address energy security is by building more pipelines or drilling for more oil and gas. That is just plain wrong. Instead of doubling down on investments that align with Russia's dirty energy business model, we must lean into the innovation of clean energy technologies to fight against Russia. That is our competitive and strategic edge. Their vulnerability is that we are the technological giant of the planet, but we have to act like that and implement policies that reflect the fact that we are the technological giant.

My Republican colleagues often come to the floor and attribute their fealty to oil and gas as a quest for energy security and independence when we know their calls for more domestic drilling are nothing more than a ploy for profits by the Big Oil companies. While families and workers are getting tipped upside down at the gasoline pump every single day, oil companies are stuffing billions into their pockets. Exxon, Conoco, and Chevron made more than \$45 billion in profits last year as gas prices increased by more than 40 percent.

Republicans call these price increases "supply constraints" and incorrectly blame President Biden's energy policies. But here are the actual facts: Daily domestic oil production remained constant between 2020 and 2021, at 12 million barrels of oil a day. We are producing as much today in the Biden administration as we were producing during the Trump administration. So I just don't want to continue to hear this from the Republican side. What they are saying is not true.

Here are some more facts that the American Petroleum Institute, or the "American Prevarication Institute," and my Republican colleagues seem to omit: In 2021, 3 million of those 12 million barrels were exported to foreign countries.

Let me say that again. Of the 12 million barrels of oil that we actually drilled for here in the United States, 3 million of those barrels were exported around the world.

Who wanted to export those barrels of oil? The American Petroleum Institute. And we are exporting them abroad because, in 2015, Republicans voted to end the decades-long export ban on sending oil overseas. It was their votes that paved the way to send American oil overseas. It was their votes that aligned with the American Petroleum Institute that results today in 3 million barrels of oil a day leaving the United States, as we see these crocodile tears about oil imports and exports from the American Petroleum Institute, from the Republican Party.

So you can't say, out of one side of your mouth, "energy independence" but, out of the other side, "export, baby, export." That is what the Republican Party has stood for; that is what the American Petroleum Institute advocated for and got as a new American policy after four decades, in 2015. And the more oil we drill for here at home, the more likely Big Oil will sell American consumers out to the highest bidder abroad for our oil.

Republicans owe Americans at the pump an apology for putting us in this situation. We cannot support a business model where Big Oil drills for energy in the United States, only to sell that product to China at the expense of the American consumer.

In November of 2020, I requested a Federal report that revealed that the repeal of the 2015 crude oil export ban increased U.S. crude exports—while imports remained largely unchanged—and resulted in higher oil costs.

The first step to true energy independence is to reinstate the ban on exporting American crude oil and natural gas abroad. The other step must be equally aggressive: aggressive investments in clean energy, in wind, in solar, in all-electric vehicles, in battery storage technologies, in new metals, new inventions, so that we don't have to import that oil from Russia or from any other place in the world, so that we can break our addiction to the Russian oil that comes into our country right now, even as we speak on the floor of the U.S. Senate, because that hurts American working families. It hurts vulnerable communities in our country.

Our fossil fuel addiction is a catalyst for conflict. A clean energy Green New Deal would be a pathway for peace. The position of my Republican colleagues represents the kind of short-term thinking that will harm our long-term national security, the security of our European partners and allies, and the health of our planet.

If we export more American natural gas to our allies in Europe, fuel prices would increase for American consumers and the Russian Government would continue to profit by simply redirecting its fossil fuel supply to Asia.

Putin would still be able to use his oil and natural gas revenue to threaten the sovereignty of free and democratic countries. And as a top three oil and natural gas producer, Russia will continue to have significant influence on energy supply and pricing as long as there continues to be global demand for its oil and gas exports, whether that demand is Eastern Asia or Eastern Europe.

This is not theoretical. Just last week, Russia and China inked a 30-year deal through which Russia will send natural gas worth \$80 billion a year to China. In addition to whom Russia sells its oil and gas, we must start focusing on why Russia has a market for its oil and gas in the first place.

This is a demand-side problem. Let's demand some answers. If we are serious about addressing fossil fuel demand, let's switch to clean energy and make smart investments in electric transportation. We don't need more gas pumps; we need more heat pumps for heating and cooling. We don't need more pipelines; we need more transmission lines to deliver safe, secure, and reliable clean energy. And we don't need more mass destruction; we need mass construction of clean, industrial facilities, clean manufacturing, clean cars here in the United States and worldwide.

If we are serious about ending Russia's oil and natural gas blackmail, we should invest in energy-efficient technologies that get us off the fossil fuel that threatens our planet and threatens the security of Europe. We need to build electric cars and trucks so Americans and Europeans will never again be at the mercy of global energy markets led by Russia and OPEC.

We need to build electric heat pumps so our European allies no longer have to rely on Putin's natural gas to heat their homes in the winter.

And we need to build clean energy manufacturing facilities here in the United States so that we can export clean energy technologies to Europe and create jobs here at home. We need to make the wind turbines here in the United States. We need to make the solar panels here in the United States. We need to make the battery technologies here in the United States. We need to make the all-electric vehicles here in the United States. That has to be our plan.

That will frighten Putin. That will frighten all of the rest of his petrol buddies right now having a little confab in Sochi. That will frighten him. But we cannot preach temperance from a barstool. So the United States must lead our European allies in the clean energy revolution to protect us all from Russia, yes, but also from the existential threat of climate change caused by dirty fuels.

If the United States leads with government investment in clean energy, we will drive down the cost curve for these clean energy technologies and spread this widespread adoption in the United States and Europe and across the planet.

Just look at the power that clean energy already has in our country. The clean energy sector was one of the Nation's fastest growing job sectors.

Solar jobs: In 2010, we had 93,000 workers. By now, we have 345,000.

Wind jobs: In 2010, 75,000 employees. By 2020, up to 114,000.

Energy efficiency jobs: 830,000 in 2010. Now, it is up to 2.1 million people working in energy efficiency in our country.

That worker power is matched by actual power. Just listen to these generation achievements. We have gone from 1,200 megawatts of solar in 2008 to 120,000 megawatts today.

For wind, it has gone from 25,000 to 143,000 megawatts. All-electric vehicles—there were only 2,500 all-electric vehicles in the United States in 2008. That was a crime, that we had fallen so far behind, that the auto industry in the United States just sat down on the job, but by 2030, we are now expecting 18 million new jobs—18 million new electric vehicles on the streets of our country.

This is America's strength. This is where we can dominate the world—the clean energy economy. We will not free ourselves from Putin's energy clutches by staring down the dark barrel of a gun but by harnessing the clean energy of the Sun.

If Vladimir Putin's market for fossil fuel shrinks, so does his ability to finance threats and sow division around the world. In order to defuse tensions around Europe, we need a revolution—a clean energy revolution.

Our wind turbines are weapons against Russia's pipelines. Our solar panels are shields against Siberian oil. Together with the EU's European Green Deal, that is how we will fight and win the clean energy revolution that will finally disarm Putin's dirty regime.

Our first step is to pass the climate justice and clean energy provisions from the Build Back Better bill. That \$555 billion investment includes tax credits and rebates in clean energy, heat pumps, all-electric vehicles, advanced domestic manufacturing, wind and solar, which will be made in America. A clean economy will be created.

Those credits are coupled with a technology-neutral climate and clean energy bank that will help finance the clean economy and a Civilian Climate Corps, which will train the next generation of young people and workers to bring jobs and justice to our local communities.

We need to deploy one of our greatest assets against Putin: American ingenuity and the American workers, a well-trained, well-paid battalion of American workers who will build our clean energy revolution with jobs that cannot be outsourced. This clean energy revolution is worth fighting for, and I know we can do it.

Now we need to build on the past 12 years of domestic clean energy success and help build European economies

that no longer have to rely on Vladimir Putin to heat their homes and power their cars.

The United States imports Russian oil. Europe imports Russian gas. What if, instead, we exported climate innovation and leadership to the world? That is the clean energy revolution that could stem the possibility of war and climate catastrophe.

We don't need Russia's oil any more than we need Russia's caviar if we are serious in our country. We need a new NATO that comes together and forges an alliance to deploy all-electric vehicles, to deploy wind and solar, so we back out the oil and gas—not only in Europe, not only in the United States, but all around the world—that we use.

This is our moment. We have a chance here in the U.S. Senate to respond. But I don't want to hear anything more from the American Petroleum Institute—the “American Prevarication Institute.” Their policies are the ones that we are living with today. Those are the policies that must change. That is the only way in which we can meet this healthcare, environmental, national security, and moral issue of all time. If we do it, generations in the future will look back and say that we responded to that challenge.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Nebraska.

SUPER BOWL LVI

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, like many Americans, Nebraskans were rooting for the Bengals on Sunday. Everyone loves a good underdog story. The Bengals hadn't won a playoff game in more than 30 years until this season, and they were effectively the visiting team in a Super Bowl that was played in Los Angeles against the L.A. Rams.

Outside of Ohio, Nebraska may have more connection to the Bengals than any other State. To start, Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow has deep roots in Nebraska. Both of his brothers, Jamie and Dan, played for the Huskers in the early 2000s. His mom Robin grew up in Tecumseh, NE, and Burrow has uncles and other relatives scattered around southeast Nebraska.

His grandfather Wayne is a farmer in Johnson County. Wayne has watched every Super Bowl for 56 years, going back to Super Bowl I in 1967. This year was the first time he has attended the big game in person to cheer on his grandson and the Bengals.

Maybe best of all, Joe Burrow's dad played for the Nebraska Huskers in the seventies before going on to a career in the NFL and the Canadian Football League. Later, as an assistant coach, he was part of the Husker team that took on No. 1 Miami in the 2002 Rose Bowl. Husker football fans remember that game as the last time Nebraska has played for a national championship—not good. Five-year-old Joe Burrow was there in Pasadena to support his dad, making Sunday's Super Bowl

the second time he has traveled to L.A. for a national title game.

Even by themselves, Joe Burrow's Nebraska connections would have been enough to make Husker Nation pull for the Bengals, but Bengals Coach Zac Taylor is another reason that Nebraskans were with Cincinnati on Sunday. He was the Huskers' starting quarterback for the 2005 and 2006 seasons, throwing for nearly 6,000 yards and 45 touchdowns. He was also the last Cornhusker to win the Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year Award.

He credits his success as a player to Nebraska's coach at the time, Bill Callahan. Now, he has Brian Callahan, Bill's son, on his staff as his offensive coordinator. Troy Walters, the Bengals' wide receivers coach, was Nebraska's offensive coordinator from 2017 to 2019.

Another Bengals player with Nebraska ties is Stanley Morgan. He signed with the Bengals in 2019 after a stellar college career with the Huskers, and he is easily one of the best receivers in Husker football history. Morgan rewrote Nebraska's wide receiver record books from 2015 to 2018. He holds the record for career receptions and receiving yards and also for single-season receiving yards. With that last record, he eclipsed the previous total Nebraska football legend Johnny Rodgers set on his way to winning the Heisman Trophy in 1972. Now Morgan has a bright future ahead of him in the NFL.

Nebraska's connections to this Bengals team is strong. The team came up just short on Sunday, but Nebraskans are proud of what they accomplished this season. Joe Burrow and Zac Taylor led this team of underdogs to a game no one expected to see them in, and they ended the longest active playoffs drought in the NFL while they were at it.

Things are looking up for this Nebraska-led team. I look forward to seeing them in the playoffs again next year.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to finish my remarks prior to the scheduled vote at 11:30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, at the end of this month, the U.S. Supreme Court is slated to hear oral arguments in the case of *West Virginia v. EPA*, in which the Justices will consider the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. The stakes could not be higher. This case will have lasting impacts in Maryland, the Nation, and the planet.

As we follow the science and work to mitigate the damaging impacts of climate change, it is imperative that the Court respect EPA's authority, which